

PRESS RELEASE

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Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Gary Prideaux-Wentz, 56, New Glarus, Wis., was sentenced today by U.S. District Judge Barbara B. Crabb to six years in prison, followed by a life term of supervised release, for possession of child pornography. Prideaux-Wentz pleaded guilty to this charge on August 15, 2007.

The evidence showed that over a ten-year period of time, Prideaux-Wentz collected movies and still images depicting young children engaged in sexually explicit conduct. Prideaux-Wentz also made child pornography available to others on the Internet. Prideaux-Wentz collected a large number of images, including sadistic images and movies and images depicting children under 12 years old.

The charges against Prideaux-Wentz were the result of an investigation conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Laura A. Przybylinski Finn.

This case has been brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, the U.S. Justice Department created Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative

designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the U.S.

Attorneys' Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafecchildhood.gov.

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